

EMB agar is a very useful, almost indispensable indicator agar for use in work with fermentation mutants of coliforms. However, many workers have complained of difficulties in obtaining satisfactory results with it. In our experience, this is usually due to an unsatisfactory lot of Eosin Y. Many batches carrying a Stain Commission certification for histological staining, and of a high dye content may be unsatisfactory for EMB, for obscure causes. Before purchasing substantial quantities of an untested lot, a sample should first be tested. Recently, the Hilton-Davis Chemical Co., 2235 Langdon Farm Road, Cincinnati, provided a very satisfactory sample, Mix 63546, and quoted the very low price of \$1.50 per lb. Most samples of methylene blue hydrochloride, USP quality, should be satisfactory.

Our formula for EMB agar, of which some hundreds of liters have been prepared has been:

Dye Mix (stored as dry powder):

Eosin Y 4 gms., Methylene Blue 0.65 gms., K_2HPO_4
(anhydr.) 20 gms.

Dye Mix:	2.4	grams
Peptone (or N-Z-Case, etc.)	8	
Yeast Extract	1	
Sodium chloride	5	
Agar	15	
Sugar	10-15	
Water, q.s.	1	liter

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MUTANT STOCK LISTS

Mutant stocks of Aspergillus nidulans at the Department of Genetics, The University, Glasgow W.2, submitted by Dr. G. Pontecorvo.

Auxotrophs:

Lysine
Methionine
Arginine/ornithine/proline (not citrulline)
Arginine/ornithine (not citrulline)
Arginine
Proline
Phenylalanine/phenylpyruvic acid
Sulphite (or more reduced S)
Thiosulphate (or more reduced S)
Nitrite
Ammonia
Nicotinic acid/Quinolinic acid/3-OH-anthranilic acid/
3-OH-kynurenine/kynurenine/tryptophane/indole/
anthranilic acid
Nicotinic acid/3-OH-anthranilic acid/Quinolinic acid/
3-OH-kynurenine/anthranilic acid
Adenine/hypoxanthine
Uracil/cytosine
PABA
Pantothenate
Biotin/desthiobiotin
Aneurin/"thiazole"
Pyridoxin
Riboflavin

Colours (conidia):

Green (wild type)
White (one gene, epistatic to yellow)
Yellow (one gene)

Most of the above mutants have occurred repeatedly, hundreds of times in the case of the adenineless and of the parathiotrophic. Their genetic and/or biochemical identity has been investigated in only a few cases. Many recombinations of auxotrophies and colours are available.